

MEMOIR

RANDOLPH WINSLOW

1852-1937

DR. RANDOLPH WINSLOW, Professor Emeritus of Surgery at the University of Maryland, died in Baltimore February 27, 1937. He was born in North



RANDOLPH WINSLOW, M.D.

Carolina, October 23, 1852, and was, therefore, in his eighty-fifth year. He

was one of the few survivors of the great era of surgical expansion that began with the achievement of clean surgery and his early record of operative pioneering is proof of this. He was one of the first, if not the first, to introduce antiseptic surgery into Maryland. According to Cordell, Doctor Winslow was the first surgeon in Maryland to resect the pylorus for carcinoma and to shorten the round ligaments (1884). He performed the first vaginal hysterectomy in the State in 1888. He was the first Maryland surgeon to operate successfully for gunshot wound of the intestine (1893).

He was one of the last professors of surgery to come up through the various ranks of assistant demonstrator of anatomy, demonstrator of anatomy and professor of anatomy to the head of the surgical department. There is still something to be said for this system whereby anatomy was taught as an applied science, instead of as a pure one.

At a period when many men entered medical schools with little preliminary education, he brought to the study of medicine a well trained mental equipment, having received both an A.B. and an A.M. degree from Haverford College. He was graduated from the University of Maryland in 1873 at the head of his class. He became Professor of Surgery in 1902, upon the retirement of Dr. Louis McLane Tiffany and continued in this position until his own retirement in 1920.

He earned and deserved distinction in a number of ways aside from the teaching and practice of surgery. His style as a writer was clear and simple and direct and these qualities stood out in his character. He was honest, fearless and forthright, and despised subtlety, subterfuge and sham.

During much of his teaching career, educational standards were low, but he exerted himself constantly to raise the level of scholarship in medical schools and for 20 years was on the Executive Council of the Association of American Medical Colleges. He served the medical profession in many other ways; on the Judicial Council of the American Medical Association, as President of his State Society and at the time of his death was one of its Councillors. He was elected to the American Surgical Association in 1914, to the Southern Surgical Association in 1905, of which he was President in 1921, and was a member of many other local and national groups. He was especially faithful and loyal to the University of Maryland and rendered devoted service to it.

During his long service to his fellows he displayed the changing phases of a useful and successful life; the virile and fighting qualities of a young man, the strength and certainty of the maturer man and, after retirement, he unconsciously gave a fine exhibition of how a strong man grows old; showing qualities of gentleness, kindness, understanding and sympathy with no evidence of bitterness or regret. He continued to take an interest in his profession, his societies, his friends and his school, which made association with him not only an inspiring companionship, but a real joy.

ARTHUR M. SHIPLEY.